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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

HOWARD M. BAKER, JR., TENN., EX OFFICIO
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA., EX OFFICIOROBERT R. SIMMONS, STAFF DIRECTOR
GARY J. SCHMITT, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

#83-1258

April 13, 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

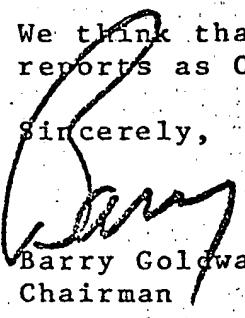
Thank you for appearing before the Committee on March 24, 1983, to discuss publication of a dollar cost comparison of Soviet and U.S. defense expenditures and Communist Aid Activities in Non-Communist Less Developed Countries.

As we discussed in the hearing, I agreed to withhold any further judgment until all the Members had an opportunity to review your testimony. Each Member received a copy of your talking points as well as a copy of the complete statement. They were then polled as to whether or not publication of these documents by CIA should continue. The response was overwhelmingly supportive of continued publication in an unclassified form. But, the Vice Chairman, Pat Moynihan, sided with you on the issue.

Bill, Members of the Committee, including myself, were simply not convinced by your arguments. These are just the sort of reports that the CIA should be making available to the public so they can better understand the magnitude and the nature of Soviet defense expenditures, as well as their aid activities to non-Communist less developed countries around the world.

We think that the decision to cancel dissemination of these two reports as CIA products was wrong, and we urge you to reconsider.

Sincerely,



Barry Goldwater
Chairman

Enclosures

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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

ROBERT M. SIMMONS, STAFF DIRECTOR
GARY J. SCHMITT, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 6, 1983

The Honorable Barry Goldwater
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Barry:

Your letter on releasing unclassified versions of two CIA reports raises important issues. Going back to Richard Helms and continuing through William Colby, George Bush, and Stansfield Turner, CIA regularly issued a wide variety of unclassified analytic reports to the public. Director Casey changed this policy in 1981 because he thought it created too much controversy for CIA.

Since then, the public has not had the benefit of the CIA's objective, professional judgments not only on Soviet military expenditures and aid to less developed countries, but also on such topics as Soviet agricultural developments, Chinese defense spending, East European hard currency debt, and conditions affecting the flow of Indo-China refugees. I am particularly interested, for example, in a recent CIA report on "Soviet Grain Imports" that might have been released in unclassified form under the previous policy.

It seems to me that Director Casey made a mistake when he stopped releasing these reports, and I think our Committee should tell him so. On the other hand, we have to be careful not to encourage the practice of selective release of CIA reports either to support or oppose particular policies. There should be objective criteria that encourage CIA to release its unclassified findings on as many issues as possible, consistent with protection of sources and methods.

The real issue is how to avoid politicizing CIA analysis, while giving the public the information it needs. Excessive secrecy just breeds more politically motivated leaks, the slanting of CIA data by other agencies, or the selective use of intelligence to promote one side. For that reason, I cannot support CIA's release of reports on only two topics. Instead, the CIA should go back to its previous policy of releasing unclassified analysis on a wide variety of subjects.

Sincerely,


Walter D. Huddleston

JACK O'CONNOR, UTAH
JOHN W. CHAFFET, N.J.
RICHARD G. LUGAR, IND.
MALCOLM W. WALLOP, WYO.
DAVID DURENBERGER, MINN.
WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR., DEL.
WILLIAM S. COHEN, MAINE

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.
DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VT.
LLOYD BENTSEN, TEX.

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA., EX OFFICIO

ROBERT R. SIMMONS, STAFF DIRECTOR
GARY J. SCHMITT, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

March 29, 1983

Note: Sent to all Members of the SSCI

83-1060

The Honorable _____
Room _____, Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear _____:

On Thursday, March 24, 1983, the full Committee held a hearing on Intelligence Community publication of unclassified reports on Soviet expenditures. The purpose of this hearing was to have the Director of Central Intelligence, Bill Casey, explain why the CIA will no longer make available to the public its dollar cost comparison of Soviet and U.S. Defense Expenditures and a document titled Communist Aid Activities in Non-Communist Less Developed Countries.

Director Casey spent over an hour at this hearing explaining the decision for terminating public dissemination of these two reports. This decision was apparently made several years ago. Enclosed for your information are copies of the Director's talking points on this subject as well as a copy of his complete statement before the Committee.

Quite frankly, I do not believe that the decision to cancel dissemination of these two reports was a good one. These are just the sort of reports that the CIA should be making available to the public so they can better understand the magnitude and the nature of Soviet defense expenditures, as well as their aid activities to non-communist less developed countries around the world. This is especially important now when not only the Federal Government here in Washington, D.C., but the whole nation is being asked to support major U.S. defense expenditures in the context of what we understand to be the Soviet threat.

Because of the controversial nature of this issue, I told Director Casey that the Committee will withhold any further judgment until all the Members had had an opportunity to review his testimony in full. I would be most appreciative if you could let me know by April 8, 1983, whether or not you think the CIA should continue publication of these documents in an unclassified form. Please feel free to contact me directly or have your staff notify the Clerk of the Committee, Dot Roberson, about your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Barry Goldwater
Chairman